

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 9, 17, 18 and 21-24 are pending in the present application. Claims 2, 4, 7, 8 10, 19 and 20 have been canceled.

Claim 1 has been amended to be in its original form and to recite the subject matter of claim 19 as originally filed.

Claims 2, 5, 9, 17, 18 and 22 have been amended for clarity.

New claim 23 has support at page 15, lines 11-12 of the specification.

New claim 24 has support at page 94 in Table 1.

No new matter has been added by way of the above-amendment.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) Over Brust, Nishikawa and Wen et al.

Claims 1-18 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over the combination of Brust (U.S. Patent No. 6,100,019) in view of Nishikawa (U.S. Patent No. 6,007,977) and Wen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,536,632). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The Examiner will note that claim 1 as recited above is essentially identical to the combination of claim 19 and claim 1 in its original form that the Examiner considered in preparing the August 13, 2002 Office Action. In the August 13, 2002 Office Action, the Examiner has indicated that claim 19 was allowable over the prior art in the section titled "Allowable Subject Matter" on page 4. In view of the fact that claim 1 as amended above, contains subject matter which the Examiner has already considered to be allowable, the rejection is rendered moot.

Application No. 09/778,874
Amendment dated February 24, 2006
Reply to Office Action of August 25, 2005

Docket No.: 0042-0437P

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Garth M. Dahlen, Ph.D., Esq. (Reg. No. 43,575) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Dated: February 24, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marc S. Weiner", is written over a horizontal line.

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